

# Mason Matters!

SPRING 2016

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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## A Message From Supervisor Gross

### Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts**
- **School Bus Safety Reminders When Sharing the Road**
- **Learn about the Zika Virus**
- **Tax Tip for Fairfax County Residents in Falls Church**
- **Meet the 2016-2019 Board of Supervisors**
- **Coming Attractions**
- **Community Notes**
- **Budget Town Meeting March 16**

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW  
on Cable Channel 16  
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.  
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.  
DAILY ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON](http://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON)

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to the Spring 2016 print edition of Mason Matters! I hope you will find the content of this newsletter of interest to you and your family. I especially want to call your attention to articles about school bus safety and the Zika virus. Also included is the preliminary schedule for the free summer concerts at Mason District Park and Ossian Hall Park. It's never too early to put these dates on your calendar!

Springtime also heralds budget time in Fairfax County. The county executive's proposed FY 2017 budget reflects a continuing tight economic situation in Fairfax County, mirroring the continuing effects nationally of the Great Recession. While commercial properties have increased by a few percentage points, residential values remain fairly flat. County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. said that revenue growth at the current \$1.09 real estate tax rate does not support the needs and requirements of the county's 1.1 million residents, and recommended a 4 cent increase in the tax rate. The recommended increase would fund 3 percent more for school operations (\$54.75 million), as well as \$13.10 million added to the baseline for construction support, and almost \$190 million for school debt service, for a total \$2.08 billion transfer to schools. Fairfax County also provides \$85 million, not included in the transfer, in additional support for Head Start, school health, crossing guards, and other services to schools. The School Board has asked for \$68 million more than the recommended transfer, a request that must be weighed by the Board of Supervisors during its budget deliberations during the next two months.

Fairfax County's budget process is an open and robust community exercise. Budget documents are posted on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/dmb). The Board's **public hearings about the budget** are scheduled for **April 5, 6, and 7**, at the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. **Mason District's Budget Town Meeting**, featuring County Executive Ed Long, will be held on **Wednesday, March 16**, at 7 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. I look forward to seeing you there.

A constituent who enjoys running recently inquired about enforcement of dog leash laws, after being attacked by a neighborhood dog off leash. Fairfax County Code Section 41.1-2-4 states that "No dog shall run unrestricted...in the County." The Code also defines unrestricted as "not under the control of the owner or his agent either by leash, cord, chain, or primary enclosure when off the property or premises of the owner or custodian. An electronic device does not qualify as a leash, cord, or chain." There are a few exceptions for service dogs, obedience classes, dog shows, and off-leash dog areas (dog parks). Dogs found unrestricted may be impounded, and owners are subject to a summons. Unleashed dogs should be reported to Animal Control via the county's non-emergency number, 703-691-2131. Dog bites also should be reported immediately to Animal Control or the police.

Protect your pets against rabies. A low-cost **rabies clinic** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 17**, 12 to 2 p.m. for dogs and cats at the Mason District Governmental Center. For more information, call 703-830-1100, or visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.



A handwritten signature of Penny Gross in black ink. The signature is stylized, with a large, flowing 'P' and 'G'.



## Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts Schedule



### Mason District Park

Spotlight by Starlight is a free summer concert series presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Mason District Park. All performances at the Newton W. Edwards Amphitheatre at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, are on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Performances for children on Saturday (not listed) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled in the event of rain. For rain cancellation, call 703-324-SHOW (7469). The schedule is subject to change. For a complete and updated listing, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances) after May 1, 2016.

#### JUNE

- 1 Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys (American Roots)
- 3 Annandale Jazz Ambassadors (Youth Jazz Band)
- 5 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Concert Band)
- 8 The Kruger Brothers (Folk)
- 10 The Harley String Band (Folk/Americana)
- 12 The Cathedral Brass (Symphonic Brass)
- 15 The Grandsons (Rockabilly)
- 17 Little Red & The Renegades (Zydeco)
- 19 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian)
- 22 Gina DeSimone and the Moaners (Blues/Swing)
- 24 Lysette TiTi 'Oweleo' (R/B)
- 26 National Concert Band of America (Big Band)
- 29 Tom Principato Band (Blues)

#### JULY

- 1 City of Fairfax "Main Street Community Band" (Concert Band)
- 3 City of Falls Church Concert Band (Concert Band)
- 6 Project Natale (Jazz)
- 8 The Empty Bottle String Band (Old Time String Band)
- 10 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Pop)
- 13 Alexandria Klezmer (Jazz/Klezmer)
- 15 Forlorn Strangers (Indi Grass)
- 17 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 20 Jean Bayou and Friends (Folk/Rock)
- 22 Cathy Ponton King (Blues/Soul)
- 24 The United States Army Blues (Jazz)
- 27 The Lovejoy Group (Jazz/American Songbook)
- 29 King Soul (Blues)
- 31 Rhodes Tavern Troubadours (Roots)

#### AUGUST

- 3 Janine Wilson Band (Roots/Rock)
- 5 THE ROCKITS Party (Pop)
- 7 The New Dominion Band (Variety)
- 10 Trio Caliente (Latin)
- 12 Tom Paxton (Folk)
- 14 Wayne Henderson with Jeff Little and Helen White (Traditional Bluegrass)
- 17 Bruce Ewan (Blues)
- 19 Cabinet Country
- 21 The Winstons (Motown)
- 24 Thrillbillies (Rockabilly)
- 26 Roger Bullock & Friends (Americana)
- 28 Hokum Jazz Band (Vintage Jazz/Blues)
- 31 Danger Muffin (Americana Soul)

### Ossian Hall Park

Featuring music and dance from around the world, Ossian Hall Park is located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. All performances are scheduled for Saturdays at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or a chair.

#### JUNE

- 4 Korean Cultural Heritage Night
- 11 Chinese Cultural Heritage Night
- 18 Bulgarian Cultural Heritage Night "Lyuti Chushki"
- 25 Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night

#### JULY

- 2 German Cultural Heritage "Alte Kameraden German Band"
- 9 Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night
- 16 Irish Cultural Heritage Night "Irish Breakfast Band"
- 23 Bolivian Cultural Heritage Night
- 30 Malian Cultural Heritage Night

#### AUGUST

- 6 Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night
- 13 Indonesian Cultural Heritage Night
- 20 Colombian Cultural Heritage Night "El Tayrona"
- 27 Russian Cultural Heritage Night "The Beltway Balalaika"

## School Bus Safety Reminders When Sharing the Road

The Fairfax County Police Department reminds drivers about school bus safety when sharing the road. Because school bus drivers must stop the bus to load and unload children, here are some quick reminders about how drivers can help maintain safety when the buses' red lights are flashing and an extended **STOP** sign on the school bus is activated.



When approaching an **intersection**, from any direction, drivers must stop and remain stopped until all children are clear of the road and the bus moves again.



When approaching **undivided highways or streets**, drivers must stop, even if in the center turning lane, and remain stopped until all children are clear of the road and the bus moves again.



When approaching **divided highways or streets**, drivers traveling in all lanes in the same direction as the school bus must stop. Drivers on the opposite side of a physical barrier are not required to stop, but must be prepared for unexpected actions by persons exiting the bus.



When **safety devices on a school bus are not activated**, drivers still are required to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading children.

The Code of Virginia has two laws about passing school buses: § 46.2-859 (reckless driving) and penalties can include: a reckless driving charge, jail time, a six month suspension of your driving privilege in Virginia, fines up to \$2,500, and six demerit points on your license; and § 46.2-844 (traffic infraction), subject to a \$250 civil penalty and possible prosecution. Information about reckless driving, and other penalties, can be found at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Web site at [www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#points\\_6.asp](http://www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#points_6.asp).

## Learn about the Zika Virus

The Zika virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Although it has been reported that the Zika virus can be spread through sexual contact, there still is more to be learned about contracting the virus in this way. If you are traveling to a Zika-affected area, you could be at risk for infection. Take steps to avoid mosquito bites, and if you think you may have Zika, contact your health care provider. Information about the Zika virus can be found at the following Fairfax County Health Department Web page: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/zika-virus.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/zika-virus.htm), along with links to additional information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Virginia Department of Health. **Note:** Public health guidance about the Zika virus and its transmission is updated as additional information becomes known.

## Tax Tip for Fairfax County Residents in Falls Church

Many tax preparation software companies do not make the distinction in jurisdiction drop down boxes between the independent City of Falls Church and Falls Church in Fairfax County. Each Virginia jurisdiction is assigned a unique locality code number. To avoid delays in processing tax returns or quarterly estimated tax payments, the Fairfax County locality code is **059** for all residents in Fairfax County (including those with a Falls Church mailing or postal address, who live in Fairfax County). Not sure if you live in the City of Falls Church or the County of Fairfax? For quick confirmation, call 703-248-5450, or send an e-mail to [commissioner@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:commissioner@fallschurchva.gov). Information about tax filing for individuals and businesses is available at the Virginia Department of Taxation's Web site, [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov), or by calling 1-804-367-8031, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Meet the 2016-2019 Board of Supervisors**

From left to right: Daniel G. Storck (Mount Vernon District); John C. Cook (Braddock District); Catherine M. Hudgins (Hunter Mill District); Jeffrey C. McKay (Lee District); Sharon Bulova (Chairman, At-Large); Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (Mason District, Vice Chairman); John W. Foust (Dranesville District); Kathy L. Smith (Sully District); Linda Q. Smyth (Providence District); Pat Herrity (Springfield District).

Photo Courtesy of Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs

## Subscribe to Mason District's Monthly E-Newsletter

If someone you know would like to receive news and updates about Fairfax County services, and events in Mason District, send an e-mail to [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-256-7717, to subscribe to the Mason District E-Newsletter.

## Coming Attractions

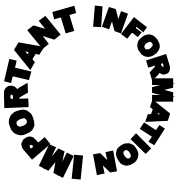
- **Bike lane projects are coming to Mason District.** Join Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff on **Monday, March 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.** at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale, and learn about bicycle enhancements that can be implemented with road repaving this year. Bicycle facilities are proposed on Heritage Drive, John Marr Drive, Markham Street, McWhorter Place, and Ravensworth Road. Information about county bike lane projects is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikeprojects.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikeprojects.htm), or by calling 703-877-5600.
- **Culmore Multicultural Day 2016** will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy live music, folkloric dancers, children's activities, and more. For more information, call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8514; TTY 703-803-3354, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks).
- The Annandale (Station 8) and Bailey's Crossroads (Station 10) Volunteer Fire Departments invite you to an **All You Can Eat Crab Leg and Shrimp Feast** on **Saturday, April 23, 2 - 5 p.m.** at the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7128 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Tickets available online at [www.avfd.org](http://www.avfd.org). For more information, call 703-941-1328.
- The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **Document Shredding** event on **Saturday, April 23, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. More information about these and other recycling events are available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling), or call 703-324-5230; TTY 711.
- The Friends of the **George Mason Regional Library** will co-host the popular, **semi-annual book sale** on **Thursday, April 28, 3 - 9 p.m.**; **Friday, April 29, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**; **Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**; and **Sunday, May 1, 12 - 5 p.m.** Books for all ages, plus CDs, videos, audio books and rare books are featured. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. For more information, call 703-813-6616 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gm/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gm/).



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## *Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed*

### Community Notes

- AARP volunteers currently are providing free tax help to residents until **Monday, April 18** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. **The schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** All returns will be filed electronically. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide), or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The spring 2016 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to Noon**. Join your friends in cleaning our Culmore neighborhood on cleanup day, and keeping our community clean all year long. For more information, please visit Culmore Cleanup Day on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday](http://www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday), or contact Supervisor Gross' office by e-mail at [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-256-7717.
- The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need, including furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/ box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.
- Notary Services are available in the Office of Supervisor Penny Gross, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 703-256-7717 to ensure a notary is available before you arrive.

## **Mason District's Budget Town Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.**

Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room  
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Join Supervisor Gross in welcoming County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. and Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, who will answer questions about the proposed FY 2017 Fairfax County Budget, and what is anticipated for the FY 2018 budget cycle. Information about the Fairfax County Budget is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb).

### **Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross**

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